

SPORT



Bangladesh U-19s batsman Nazmul Hossain plays one to the leg side during his century in their first official ICC Under-19 World Cup warm-up match against Zimbabwe U-19s at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

U-19s warm up with easy win

SPORTS REPORTER



Nazmul Hossain hit a hundred and followed it up with some economical bowling as Bangladesh Under-19s won their first warm-up match of the ICC Under-19 World Cup against Zimbabwe quite convincingly, by 63 runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

After deciding to bat first, Bangladesh lost an early wicket when William Mashinge, who returned with bowling figures of 5-67, trapped Saif Hasan in front for six but Pinak Ghosh and Joyraz Sheik steadied the ship, adding 62 runs for the second wicket.

But it was Nazmul's 103-ball 102 that enabled the home team to post the challenging total of 284. Nazmul smashed five fours and a six. Later Nazmul also contributed with the ball as he conceded

only 15 runs in his four-over spell.

In reply, Ryan Murray scored an unbeaten 123 but the lack of support from the other batsmen saw Zimbabwe finish their 50 overs on 221 for seven.

In the day's other warm-up matches, Afghanistan beat Ireland by 126 runs at BKSP-3, India thrashed Canada by 372 runs at BKSP-4, England beat Namibia by 155 runs in Chittagong, Pakistan beat Nepal by 110 runs at BKSP-1 and Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by four wickets at BKSP-2.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH UNDER-19S: 284-9 in 50 overs (Pinak 43, Joyraz 26, Nazmul 102, Miraz 33, Zakir 20, Saeed 20; Mashinge 5-67, Ives 2-43)

ZIMBABWE UNDER-19S: 221-7 in 50 overs (Patel 32, Murray 123 not out; Abdul Halim 2-45)

Result: Bangladesh Under-19s won by 63 runs.

'Experiments shouldn't disrupt balance'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh dropped down a place in the ICC T20I rankings to stand at number eleven after their two consecutive defeats against Zimbabwe at Khulna. This was one frustrating statistic apart from their disappointment over sharing the four-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, who came here following ODI and T20I series defeats to Afghanistan.

As it was a series of experimentation for the Tigers, chief selector Faruque Ahmed was not keen to focus too much on the results or the demotion in the rankings but the former national skipper raised a question about the manner in which the team management chose to go about experimenting during the series.

"Expectations are high but the reality is that we are not good in T20 cricket as we are in ODI cricket. It was not a series where we set our target to win; rather our focus was experiment with the composition of the side. It's not like we were in the top spot and the series loss took us to the bottom, so I am not interested in the rankings. We are now searching for a good combination; it will not be achieved overnight and will take some time to find the right one," said Faruque.

"But we should be careful about what experimenting actually means. My personal opinion is you should not experiment by disrupting the balance of the team, which is what happened, especially in the third game against Zimbabwe. You can try one or two players in a game to discover alternatives like we did before the 2015 World

Cup," he continued.

Faruque however said that there were some positives in the drawn series and he reserved high praise for Sabbir Rahman's efforts in the series and the way the right-hander capitalised on his promotion to the top order.

"I don't think our experiment was totally unfruitful. We tried some new players and got some ideas about them, though it's too early to come to any conclusion about any player. See, Sohan (Nurul Hasan) did a decent job behind the stumps and I am really impressed with the batting of Sabbir up the order. Actually we have to find the right combination if we want to be a strong team in this format. At this moment I am not thinking about Bangladesh's result in T20 cricket; I am looking forward to shape a good, competitive team," said Faruque.

With the current state of affairs, how can Bangladesh achieve a measure of T20 success? Faruque has a very simple recipe for that.

"Our style of playing is not suiting this format. For example we don't have big hitters who can change the complexion of the game batting at number five or six. So we can play to our strengths. We can improve our bowling and fielding. And in batting we should be calculating instead of trying to hit every ball," he suggested.

Bangladesh will now start the long preparation in Khulna and Chittagong for the Asia Cup and the ICC World Twenty20 and play some practice matches among themselves so that the team management can get some more ideas before the two mega events. The chief selector however cautioned against any high expectations from T20 cricket for the moment.



Sabbir was one of the few bright spots from the T20 experiment: Faruque Ahmed



Hockey transfers begin today

SPORTS REPORTER

The long-awaited transfer window for the Premier Division Hockey League opens today, after a gap of two years, with big clubs such as Mohammedan SC, Abahani, Usha KC and Mariner Youngs Club expected to make a splash.

These four clubs are expected to spend big to sign the national team players as well as those on the fringes of the national team in the window, which will close on Tuesday.

Most of the clubs have already confirmed their players, with the formalities of putting pen on paper to be completed during the three days.

The national team players have been divided into three grades -- A, B and C, with the A grade players scheduled to draw highest Tk 3 lakh each. The B grade players will receive Tk 2 lakh while the C grade players will get Tk 1.5 lakh, under this informal grading system.

Mohammedan, which is making its comeback after staying away from the domestic circuit for the last two years, are expected to sign A grade players such as Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Kamruzzaman Rana, Imran Hossain Pintu and Zahid Hossain as well as 14 other players of some repute. A spokesman of the Motijheel outfit has claimed that they would mark their return and complete the transfer formalities in a grand manner.

The by-laws of the league allows five foreign players in each team, and Mohammedan are looking to bring in players from Pakistan and Malaysia while it is likely to appoint Pakistan's coach Mohammad Ali as coach.

Defending champions Abahani are expected to sign Ashim Gope, Khorshedur Rahman, Farhad Hossain Shitul as their A grade players, apart from a few players from the BKSP and some quality foreign players. National team coach Mahbub Harun is likely to stay as the coach of the Dhanmondi-based outfit.

Another big club, Usha, are believed to have received commitments from national team's Pushkor Khisha Mimo, Hasan Jubayer Niloy, Sarwar Hossain, Krishna Kumar, Emon, Naim, Ratul, Nippon. The club is expected to bring in foreign coaching staff.

Meanwhile, Mariners are looking to sign Rabbi Salhein, Mamunul Islam Chayan, Ashraful Islam, Rimon Hossain, Arshad and Koushik among the notable players apart from a few players from Pakistan.

DVT diagnosis for Lehmann

AGENCIES, Melbourne

Darren Lehmann, head coach of the Australian cricket team, has been diagnosed with Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), John Orchard, the team doctor announced on Saturday.

The 45-year-old former cricketer, who was earlier diagnosed with the same during his playing days, complained of a swelling on his left calf and was advised a scan immediately. Lehmann will now undergo blood-thinning therapy and will not be flying with the team for the three-match Twenty20 International leg of the ongoing bilateral series against India.

"He is not in major discomfort or pain. It was worse the last time he had it. He could coach but we are not having him flying around," Dr. Orchard told media. "Rough time frame for recovery will be weeks, but we can't confirm it because it depends on the treatment."

In Lehmann's absence, Michael Di Venuto will take over as interim coach.

"DVT is not an uncommon condition and it is important to diagnose it early so that it can be safely managed," Orchard was quoted saying by a Cricket Australia release.

Chanderpaul calls time

AFP, St Johns



Veteran West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, the seventh highest Test match run maker in history, announced his international retirement on Friday, 22 years after his debut.

The 41-year-old former captain from Guyana ends his Test career on 11,867 runs, just 86 short of the West Indies all-time record held by Brian Lara.

Chanderpaul, a gritty and stubborn left-hander, made his debut against England in March 1994, in Guyana, hitting a half-century as the West Indies won by an innings and 44 runs.

His final Test was also against England last May in Barbados where the West Indies won by five wickets to level a three-Test series against Alastair Cook's side.

Chanderpaul's highest score in his 164 Tests was 203 not out -- he achieved that figure twice, against Bangladesh in Mirpur in 2012 and South Africa in Georgetown in 2005 and he finished with an average of 51.37.

He hit a total of 30 Test centuries and 66 fifties.

Possibly, his finest moment came in 2003 when he made 104 as the West Indies successfully chased a world-record 418 for victory in the final Test against Australia in Antigua.

But the writing was on the wall for Chanderpaul when he was dropped for the two-Test series against Australia in June last

year after making just 92 runs in the three Tests against England.

In his last 10 Test innings, he reached 50 just once.

Chanderpaul posted a top score of 150 in his 268 ODIs, finishing with an average of 41.60 with his last 50-over match coming in the 2011 World Cup quarter-final loss to Pakistan in Dhaka.

He made 8,778 one-day international runs with 11 centuries.

Chanderpaul also played 22 times for the West Indies in the Twenty20 format, but his last outing was in 2010.

"The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) acknowledges the invaluable contribution Shiv has made to the game globally and we wish him all the best," said WICB President Dave Cameron.

Despite his international retirement, Chanderpaul has still been featuring for his regional team. Last week, he was part of the Guyana side that lost in the semi-finals of the domestic 50-over tournament to Trinidad.

Such was his determined nature at the crease that Australian spin bowling legend Shane Warne once famously described him as "a bloke you needed to crowbar away from the crease."

In 2008, Chanderpaul was named as one

SHIV'S CAREER IN NUMBERS								
	Mat	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100s	50s	Cts
Tests	164	11867	203*	51.37	43.31	30	66	66
ODIs	268	8778	150	41.60	70.74	11	59	73
T20Is	22	343	41	20.17	98.84	0	0	7



India avoid whitewash

AFP, Sydney



Manish Pandey scored a brilliant unbeaten 104 as India beat Australia by six wickets in a thrilling one-day international at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

After Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and decided to bowl, Australia scored an imposing 330 for seven off their 50 overs thanks to centuries from David Warner (122) and Mitchell Marsh (102 not out).

But after losing all four previous games in the five-match series -- despite scoring over 300 runs three times and 295 on the other -- India avoided a whitewash when they reached 331 for four with two balls remaining.

Pandey, who only came into the

team because of an injury to Ajinkya Rahane, was in magnificent touch as he brought up his maiden ODI century from only 81 balls.

The 26-year-old hit eight fours and one six as he teamed with Rohit Sharma (99) and Dhoni (34) to guide India to victory.

The Indians had started their run chase brilliantly, with Shikhar Dhawan and Sharma having no trouble against the Australian attack.

Dhawan, who scored a century in the fourth ODI in Canberra on Wednesday, was particularly punishing, blasting his way to a rapid-fire half century and taking the Indian total past 100.

He brought up his 50 from just 42 balls but on 78 he tried to hit John Hastings over midwicket and was caught in the deep by Shaun Marsh.

The in-form Virat Kohli came and

Eng steady after De Kock ton

AFP, Centurion

England captain Alastair Cook made his first half-century of the series to keep his team in contention on the second day of the fourth and final Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park on Saturday.

England were 138 for two at the close of play after Quinton de Kock's maiden Test century took South Africa to a first innings total of 475.

Cook, who had scored only 103 runs in six innings in the first three Tests, batted solidly to finish unbeaten on 67.

England lost Alex Hales early, when he sliced a drive against Kagiso Rabada to Dane Piedt at point after making 15.

Nick Compton helped Cook add 56 for the second wicket before he fell victim to a ball from Rabada which shot through low and trapped him in front for 19. Joe Root kept Cook company and was unbeaten on 31.

The left-handed De Kock made 129 not out off 128 balls as he and the South African tailenders frustrated the England bowlers on a hot, humid day.

Kyle Abbott helped De Kock add 50 for the eighth wicket and Piedt shared a ninth wicket stand of 82 with the South African wicketkeeper. De Kock was the third centurion in the innings and joined debutant Stephen Cook in making his first Test hundred.

Stokes was England's most successful bowler, taking four for 86.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 475 all out (De Kock 128 not out, Cook 115, Amla 109; Stokes 4-86, Broad 2-91, Ali 2-104)

ENGLAND: First innings 138 for 2 (Cook 67 not out, Root 31 not out; Rabada 2-55)

Wisden India honours Mashrafe

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been picked by Wisden India as one of its six Cricketers for the year 2014-15 in the fourth edition of the Wisden Almanack.

Alongside him were India's Ravichandra Ashwin and Vinay Kumar, Pakistan's Younis Khan, Sri Lanka's Dhammika Prasad and England's Joe Root. Vijay Merchant and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar featured in the Hall of Fame section.

Under the leadership of Mashrafe, Bangladesh had an unprecedented year in 2015, starting from their passage into the quarterfinals of the ICC World Cup 2015 to winning three consecutive series against Pakistan, India and South Africa.